

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 and 98 were pending in this application prior to this paper. Claims 36-97 and 99 were canceled previously. Claims 1 and 98 are amended herein.

In the Advisory Action of December 9, 2009, the examiner stated that “Applicant’s arguments are not persuasive” and that “Examiner notes that Tuttle (column 1 line 48-51 and column 8 line 17-39) provides for the ability to access and update other databases through an Internet interface.” The examiner goes on to state, “Tuttle also discloses access to passenger information in a database.” With all due respect, the present claims refer to “information that relates to patients” not passengers. However, in the interest of advancing the present application to allowance, claims 1 and 98 have been further amended to include the recitation “wherein each of the portable client devices is configured to control equipment associated with a patient room.” It is submitted that portable client devices having ALL OF the recited capabilities are neither disclosed nor suggested in Ulrich, Tuttle, and Hamilton. In particular, the recited “portable client devices” are (1) each usable for locating the user, (2) each usable for voice communication, (3) each usable to read asset tags, (4) each usable to control equipment associated with a patient room, and (5) each usable to access patient information. Such a combination of functions is not obvious. The only way for the examiner to find otherwise is by engaging in impermissible hindsight reconstruction using the claims of the present application as a shopping list to go out and find prior art necessary to reject the claims.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the combination of elements and limitations recited in independent claims 1 and 98 distinguish over the combination of Ulrich, Tuttle, and Hamilton. Accordingly, claims 1 and 98 along with claims 2-35 that depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

An earnest attempt has again been made to place the application in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If there are any questions or comments that would speed prosecution of this patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (317) 231-7341. This response has been filed within two months of the September 30, 2009 mailing date of the final Office Action.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged, or any overpayment in fees credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 with reference to attorney docket no. 7175-202220.

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald S. Henderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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